

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants' representatives thank the Examiner for discussing this case in October. The substance of the discussion can be found in the attached Statement of Summary of Interview.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-14, and 17-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 20, which was added in the previous Amendment, is allowed. Claims 1 and 3 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Flick (US Patent No.: 6,140,939) in view of Scott et al. (US Patent No.: 6,484,260). Claims 4, 5, 8-14, and 17-19 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Flick in view of Scott, and further in view of Hsu et al. (US Patent No.: 6,100,811).

§103(a) Rejections (Flick/Scott) - Claims 1 and 3

Independent claim 1 is amended, as indicated herein, and Applicants submit that this claim is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth in claim 20. *See Statement of Substance of Interview.* That is, Applicants submit that the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least "transmitting both the fingerprint information and the system-specific identifier," as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicants believe that the present invention, as recited in claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Flick in view of Scott.

Applicants submit that dependent claim 3 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1.

§103(a) Rejections (Flick/Scott/Hsu) - Claims 4, 5, 8-14, and 17-19

Claims 4, 5, 8-14 and 17-19 rejected for the same reasons set forth in the previous Office Action. Applicants submit that dependent claims 4, 5, and 8-10 are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect or direct dependencies from independent claim 1. Hsu does not make up for the deficiencies of Flick and Scott.

With respect to claims 11-14 and 17-19, these claims have been amended, as indicated herein, to place them in independent form, and Applicants maintain that Hsu fails to teach or suggest the claimed identifier that is specific to the transmitter, as argued in the previous Amendment. The Examiner fails to respond to this particular argument .

Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicants maintain that the present invention, as recited in claims 4, 5, 8-14, and 17-19, is patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U. S. Application No. 09/649,097

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q60517

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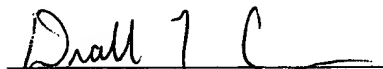
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Date: December 8, 2004